



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**STATE MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES \$74.7 MILLION IN GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE PROGRAMS FOR MENTALLY ILL ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

**SACRAMENTO** – State Mental Health Director Stephen W. Mayberg, Ph.D., today announced continuation of grants totaling \$74.7 million to counties to continue Integrated Services Programs for Homeless Mentally Ill and Children's System of Care programs for mentally ill adults and children and youth who are severely, emotionally disturbed.

"These programs have demonstrated success in assisting mentally ill adults build stable lives by helping them get off the streets and out of jail and into appropriate treatment, permanent housing and jobs," Dr. Mayberg said. "Counties will also continue the multi-agency approach to address the needs of emotionally disturbed children and youth by keeping children out of the juvenile justice system, in their own homes and in school."

The 2003-04 budget included \$54.7 million to fund Integrated Services Programs for Homeless Mentally Ill for 34 programs (32 counties and two cities) for one year ending June 2004. An additional \$20 million was allocated to 54 counties to continue funding Children's System of Care (CSOC) multi-agency programs for children and youth who are severely, emotionally disturbed.

Data collected from participating counties and cities show that over the past four years, adults who participated in the Integrated Services Programs for Homeless Mentally Ill experienced a 55.8 percent drop in the number of hospital days; a 72.1 percent drop in the number of days spent in jail; a 67.3 percent drop in the number of days spent homeless; a full-time employment increase of 65.4 percent; and a part-time employment increase of 53.1 percent.

The goal of CSOC programs is to keep children in their own homes or to return them to their own families as soon as possible if out-of-home placement is necessary, while ensuring that they remain in school and out of the juvenile justice system.

The budget also allocated \$592,725 to support a statewide parent support organization to train parents in the use of "evidence based" approaches that best serve the child and family's needs, and for the evaluation of the approach.

During his administration, Gov. Gray Davis approved nearly \$239 million to local government to provide services to nearly 5,000 persons annually who were formerly homeless mentally ill. For more information, log on to California Department of Mental Health Web site at <http://www.dmh.ca.gov/>.

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Attachments: Homeless Mentally Ill and CSOC 2003-04 Funding Allocations



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